

BMETs provide essential maintenance

Medical maintainers become jacks of all trades to keep equipment running

By Master Sgt. **Gregory Pressley** 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group

T THEIR HOME UNITS, BIOmedical equipment maintenance technicians, commonly called BMETs, are primarily responsible for maintaining a wide variety of medical equipment. On a typical day, they can be seen working on everything from electronic thermometers to highly complex linear accelerators.

While assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, however, they are called upon to perform an assortment of additional tasks that are new to most of them, including power production, maintaining air conditioning units and even carpentry work.

Recently, these multifunctional maintainers swapped out an X-ray machine to upgrade to a newer version.

According to Master Sgt. John Odlum, noncommissioned officer in charge of medical maintenance, the team of BMETs nicknamed the "Git 'er Done Crew" got the task done in minimal time, losing main X-ray services for less than 24 hours.

In addition to the X-ray machine, maintainers replaced a computerized tomography (CT) Shelter, which houses the equip-

ment used for scanning patients. Originally allotted only 24 hours to accomplish the task, the team finished ahead of schedule, with

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Photos by Master Sgt. Gregory Pressley

From left to right, Staff Sgts. James Call and Jonathan Freeman, Master Sgt. John Odlum, Senior Airman Matthew Hornyak and Staff Sgt. Christopher Vestal, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group maintenance technicians, set up the new CT scan equipment at the Air Force theater hospital.

Testing new body armor



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A special Father's Day



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Tech, Master promotions



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New duds: Sergeant tests prototype level IV body armor



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Robertso

Tech. Sgt. Gerald Lowry, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron network administrator, provides a view of new level IV body armor currently being tested by the Air Force Research Lab at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The armor includes a new form of ceramic plate that can withstand more bullet strikes than current plates.

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery** 332nd AEW Public Affairs

Carried into the Air Force theater hospital, wounded badly in the shoulder and thigh, a servicemember is lucky to be alive.

The level IV body armor he was wearing in the field protected his vital organs but couldn't stop the bullets from tearing into his unprotected body parts.

It wasn't all just luck though. The Department of Defense stepped up to the plate during Operation Iraqi Freedom and issued level IV body armor with front and back plates. The only drawback – if there is one – is the weight of the vest: more than 37 pounds.

In an attempt to reduce the weight but increase protection from injuries for their fellow servicemembers, Tech. Sgt. Gerald Lowry, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron network administrator, and 2nd Lt. Todd Turner of the Air Force Research Laboratory Materials and Manufacturing directorate Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, have teamed up to fit-test a new form of level IV body armor while Sergeant Lowry is deployed at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Just before he deployed Sergeant Lowry said he noticed an article in the Wright-Patterson newspaper (the Skywriter) about new advanced body armor. Knowing that level IV armor was required for his deployment, Sergeant Lowry phoned Lieutenant Turner to see if he could do a fit-test. "I've been deployed four times in my 12-year Air Force career," said Sergeant Lowry. "I know how important safety is and wearing this stuff makes me feel much safer."

The new armor, which is still being researched by the Air Force, is lighter and includes bicep, leg and rib protectors. According to Lieutenant Turner, the standard ceramic plate will stop a bullet once, but the impact shatters it. In contrast, the new plates are still intact after six bullet strikes.

"This is something we've become more interested in because the Air Force is taking on more of the convoy escort missions," he said. "In Iraq, convoying is a combat operation."

While Sergeant Lowry admits he doesn't travel on many convoys, recent insurgent actions have reemphasized the importance of personal protective equipment.

"Our enemy is relentless," said Sergeant Lowry. "Anything we can do to make our people safer is worth trying out."

Sergeant Lowry frequently sends back his opinions to Lieutenant Turner. There are still some issues to work out but for the most part "there have been more pros than cons," he said.

No matter what the first test results say about the armor, Lieutenant Turner said he'll be ready to make whatever improvements are necessary.

"The idea is to deliver the best product to the men and women who are taking bullets – they're the ones who truly matter."

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Airmen share in special day

Father, son celebrate Father's Day at Balad

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery** 332nd AEW Public Affairs

Many Airmen deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, will be raising a glass to honor their fathers Sunday.

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Layman, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron element chief for phase inspections, and his son, Senior Airman Carl Layman, 332nd EMXS metals technician, will have a unique opportunity to share the special day together here in the desert.

"We're fortunate to be here together,"



Photos by Senior Airman Jason Roberston

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Layman and his son Senior Airman Carl Layman, both members of the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, spend time together playing miniature golf on their day off.

said Chief Layman, "Not many people have a chance to see their loved ones on special occasions while deployed."

Chief Layman and his son arrived at Balad together in early May. The deployment wasn't by chance.

Chief Layman put off his promotion to chief master sergeant for five months so he would be able to fill the slot, slated to arrive with his son.

When Chief Layman was promoted May 15, his son was there to share the experience with him.

According to Chief Layman, he gets to see his son once a day while making stops to the metals shop. On off days, the two men hang out playing pool or miniature golf at the recreation center.

"We have a great relationship," said Airman Layman. "We are very close at home, and it's nice knowing he is here if I need him. It's making our relationship stronger."

Chief Layman's duties as element chief for inspections include setting guidelines

and policies for members of the maintenance squadron, so even in a deployed location, Airman Layman is still following his dad's rules. Chief Layman was quick to point out that he stays out of his son's work.

"Carl has a good head on his shoulders so I leave him alone," said Chief Layman, "but I'm here if he ever needs help or advice on something."

Both men said they look at their relationship as more than just father and son

"We are really good friends, who enjoy spending time with each other."

When their fellow Airmen are calling home or sending cards, wishing their fathers a happy Father's Day Sunday, Chief Layman and his son Carl will be able to look back on this day as a day where father and son shared a unique experience together.

"I'm very proud of my father," said Airman Layman. "He's a great role model to young Airmen."



Chief Layman and his son Carl, who deployed together, will be able to celebrate Father's Day together while deployed here.

Life on the other side of the litter

Former Marine turned Airman helps give servicemembers a fighting chance

By 2nd Lt. John Severns 332nd AEW Public Affairs

N 1991, DURING THE FIRST ■ Gulf War, Marine Sgt. Brian Ackerman was a member of Task Force Grizzly, the American force that swept through the desert into Kuwait to liberate it from Iraqi forces.

After Sergeant Ackerman's unit made it into Kuwait City and began busting down doors, looking for resistance, an Iraqi soldier popped around a corner and sprayed several shots from an AK-47 in his direction.

What followed, Sergeant Ackerman said, was a "failure to duck."

Today, Air Force Captain Ackerman is a nurse with the 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron here. His job is to coordinate the movement of critically wounded patients between the Air Force theater hospital and the Contingency Aeromedical Staging

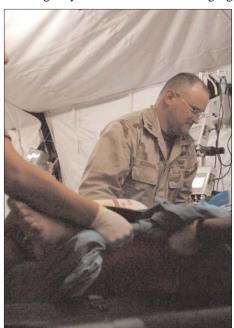


Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

Capt. Ackerman. Brian 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron nurse, helps prepare a patient for a flight out of Balad.

Facility, the last part of Balad patients see before getting onto planes bound for Ramstein Air Base, en route to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

The past 14 years have seen him from one war to the next, and from one side of the litter to the other.

Out of Kuwait

Sergeant Ackerman's "failure to duck" was his last concrete memory of the war. One of the AK-47 rounds tore into his left shoulder, causing a substantial wound and turning Sergeant Ackerman into a seriously wounded patient in need of urgent medical care.

"I don't remember much of what happened after the hit," he said. "The next thing I knew I was in Bethesda (Naval Medical Center, Md.), lying on a clean

Sergeant Ackerman's shoulder wound required surgery and months of rehabilitation. That, he said, was the hardest part.

"Physical therapists do a wonderful job, they're miracles workers," he said. "But you have to want to get better. They push you, and it hurts, but you have to do the work yourself."

His shoulder was so tight when he started, he said, that he sounded like the tin man. Lying on a mat on the floor, he wasn't able to lift a quarter-pound weight with his wounded arm.

Six months later, his rehabilitation complete, Sergeant Ackerman was medically discharged from the Marine Corps.

Back in the States

"For a Marine, once you get out, there are two jobs you're immediately qualified for: security guard and policeman," Sergeant Ackerman said. "Neither of those really appealed to me."

Instead, on the advice of a friend, he became a paramedic. It was a way, the Pittsburg native said, to make a living and still get the adrenaline rush associated with driving fast and saving people's lives.

"I remember working with nurses and thinking, 'I could do that.' I never realized just how much hard work they put in," he said.

For the next several years he went to nursing school and worked full time, graduating in 1998. It was an article in a magazine, though, that brought him back to the military.

"I read an article in Nursing Spectrum about nurses in the Air Force - it was actually about the unit that I ended up joining," he said.

The Delaware Air National Guard's 142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron had found its newest nurse, and newlyreenlisted Airman Ackerman was in a military hospital again, this time on other side of the litter.

Helping get others home

Like others in the military, now-Captain Ackerman's unit has deployed repeatedly in support of the War on Terror. As part of an aeromedical evacuation unit, he found himself helping patients in the same situation he was in 14 years ago.

"I can't say I know exactly where they're coming from," he said. "A lot of these guys are dealing with injuries a lot more traumatic than mine were - lost eyes, lost limbs, that sort of thing.

"What I think I can offer is some empathy and understanding. I understand what it's like to look up from a litter at a stranger and want to get back to your men, but not be able to."

Captain Ackerman's current mission doesn't have him working as closely with patients as some of his previous deployments. As an intermediary with the theater hospital, he might only see patients for a few minutes on their way to a plane taking them to Europe.

"It's not every day you get to make in impact on people's lives," he said. "But even if I only see them for 30 seconds or a few minutes, it's enough time to tell them, 'I'm here to take you home."

RED TAIL FLUER

Ulbright Ave. Kirkuh Regional Air Base, Iraq Bedicated Way 11, 2805

Photo by Staff Sgt. Arlene Gentry

Col. Warren McChesney Jr., Air Force Office of Special Investigations 24th Expeditionary Field Investigation Squadron commander, unveils the street sign bearing the name of Special Agent Rick Ulbright, who died last year.

Sign serves as reminder

By Tech. Sgt. **Jill LaVoie** 506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – In honor of Special Agent Rick Ulbright, who died while serving with the Office of Special Investigations here, Kirkuk leadership recently renamed a street located near the dining facility,

While stationed here to perform polygraph interviews for the 24th Expeditionary Field Investigation Squadron, Special Agent Ulbright was killed by shrapnel from a rocket attack Aug. 8, 2004.

During the street sign unveiling ceremony, Special Agent Ulbright's former commander, Col. Warren McChesney, Jr., Air Force OSI 24th EFIS, lauded him for his work and dedication to the Air Force.

"Rick was an excellent investigator, interviewer and interrogator," Colonel McChesney said. "Rick was a patriot and an American hero, he was an outstanding civilian Airman, an outstanding civilian special agent, and a superb retired senior NCO."

After retiring from active duty as a certified polygraph examiner, Special Agent Ulbright returned to Air Force OSI as a civilian. In 2004, he volunteered for a tour of duty with the 24th EFIS conducting polygraph examinations for criminal investigations and force protection issues.

On the night of Aug. 8, 2004, Special Agent Ulbright was walking the 50 feet between the building where he conducted interviews and where he kept his notes when a rocket attack struck Kirkuk.

Though his co-workers and Army medical personnel responded immediately, Special Agent Ulbright died as a result of shrapnel wounds a few hours later.

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award and the Defense of Freedom medal.

"I think it's appropriate we memorialize him and his contribution to the effort," said Colonel McChesney. "As long as we are here, that street will bear his name – maybe even after we're gone it will stand as a reminder."



Photo by Senior Airman Chad Chisholm

Changing hands

Col. Gordon Jacobs, the new 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group commander, receives the 322nd EOG guidon from Brig. Gen. Blair Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, at a change of command ceremony Wednesday. Colonel Jacobs was the former commander of the 727th Air Mobility Squadron at RAF Mildenhall, England.



Technical Sergeant

Jerry D. Davison Jr. 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenence Squadron

Terrence D. Bunn 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Tami R. Estep332nd ECESMichael S. Haines332nd ECESMartin A. Jones332nd ECESRobert T. Nora Jr.332nd ECES

Jason R. Whitaker 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron

Steven J. Caselli 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Richard C. Daniel 332nd ELRS Ernest Garcia 332nd ELRS Peter E. Richmond 332nd ELRS

Darin F. Smith 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron

Michael S. Wild 332nd EMDOS Arnulfo V. Austria 332nd EMDSS Rommel M. Singca 332nd EMDSS

Christopher McKeen 332nd Expeditionary Maintenence Squadron

Mark S. Pilgrim 332nd EMXS Francisco Rodriguez 332nd EMXS

Christopher Cluff 332nd Expeditionary Joint Operations Support

Squadron

Patrick D. Gray 332nd EOSS Michelle D. Moses 332nd EOSS

Dustin A. Johnson 332nd Personnel Support for Contingency Operations Shawn M. Bakkila 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation

Squadron

Jeffrey S. VanDoren 46th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenence Unit

James E. Blake Jr. 510th EAMU Brian K. Card 510th EAMU Robert V. Smith Jr. 510th EAMU

Jeffrey R. Funes 51th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron

Christopher Cameron 64th Expeditionary Helicopter Maintenence Unit

Douglas J. Musser 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron

Joseph Williamson 64th ERQS

Larry R. Banag 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron

James K. Brandt 727th EACS Donald S. Gallagher 727th EACS Galen M. Leon 727th EACS

Jennifer J. Hysing
Amanda G. Lynch
William J. Byfield
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Air Mobility Command Det.5
Operating Location -A

Joshua R. Tidwell OL-A

Master Sergeant

Ruben Alvizures Jr. 332nd ECS Louis M. Cedillo 332nd ECS Steven D. Frver 332nd ECS James E. Kaster 332nd ECS Duane S. Harper 332nd ELRS Thomas P. Keyser Jr. 332nd ELRS Richard S. Lane 332nd ELRS Bianca T. Pulley 332nd EMDOS Julee A. Stevens 332nd EAMDS Andrew J. Blais 332nd EMXS Ben A. Carson 332nd EMXS Brent B. Baker 332nd EOSS

Edward L. Oslica 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Denise Lora Watson 332nd PERSCO
James T. Colyer III 510th EAMU
Barry B. Ryan 510th EAMU
Jeff M. Workman 510th EAMU
Melissa D. Errett 727th EACS
Timothy B. White 727th EACS
Frederick M. Garcia 332th AEW
Jason Pendergrass OL-A

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only a 20-hour break in CT services.

The task included removing the old CT, placing the new one and reconstructing the access vestibule. They did all of this in extreme heat, amidst severe power problems that were being worked by other members of the BMET team and even an interruption as a result of insurgent activity.

"The work those guys did was amazing," said Master Sgt. Yohlande Berube-Carbaugh, NCOIC of diagnostic imaging. "When these machines are down, we are on hold. Patients are diverted from here all over the area of responsi-

bility. It was imperative that they have the machines back up as quickly as possible."

According to Sergeant Berube-Carbaugh, in the month of May the diagnostic imaging team provided 1,300 routine X-rays and 600 to 700 CT scans. Those numbers are 25 percent higher than the last rotation, she said.

Checking generators and maintaining oxygen systems and air conditioning may sound like just another job, but the BMETs know how important it is.

"This is what we've been training our whole careers for," said Sergeant Odlum. "If this equipment goes down, people can die. You never know if someone is on the table."

When emergencies happen, the BMET team is on its feet, ensuring doctors and nurses have the equipment that could mean the difference between life and death.



Staff Sgt. James Call, 332nd EMDG maintenance technician, builds a ramp that will lead into the conex that house the CT scan equipment.

Check your attitude: A positive attitude goes a long way toward mission success

By Maj. **Brian Eddy** 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron

Every so often an article comes along that sticks with you. Just over three years ago, one entitled, "Get in check – Attitude is a powerful factor in everyday life," written by Lt. Col. Mark Papen, did just that. Since then I have used it to guide myself and others.

What leads you to success, to achieve your goals or allows you to be a cut above the rest? It's your attitude. What is attitude?

Attitude is a perspective in which you deal with tasks that are presented to you or the way you take on life's challenges. Consider this: when you are presented the opportunity to offer an opinion or to speak in public, you'll either present the topic in a positive or negative attitude.

The attitude you display is how you are perceived by others, and whether that perception is correct or not, it is how you will be judged. And like an individual's behavior or attitude it will determine their treatment of you. How we are treated is directly tied to our happiness.

So I think you would agree it is important in life to show a positive attitude. How much does attitude factor in? It is woven throughout each of our days like a spider web touching all that we do.

The road to excellence is not always smooth, and that's OK, because with a positive attitude we won't give up.

- Maj. Brian Eddy 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron commander

Is the window to the world you look through clean or dirty? If it's clean you have a positive attitude; however, if it is dirty, you more than likely have a very negative view.

With a dirty view, your vision is limited and you typically say, "I can't," "this will never work" or maybe the absolute worst, "I give up."

The challenge for all great leaders, formally and informally, is how we can change the dirty view of the world to clean (positive). The words then become "I can do that," "we can figure it out" and "let's try this again."

As leaders, we need to change the distorted view by not ignoring the problem. Otherwise, we will more than likely face an even larger one in the flight or squadron.

First, we must surround the problem with positive examples. Individuals with positive attitudes are contagious.

Airmen deployed for the first time

should be placed in a thriving environment and 99 percent of them will grow and thrive; however, put them in a negative environment and they will begin to emulate the wrong attitude and become a problem.

Second, we must understand and explain to others that the road to excellence is not always smooth, and that's OK, because with a positive attitude we won't give up.

Right now we need that positive attitude in what we are doing here in Iraq. Motivational speaker Gil Eagle said, "If you want to be successful, you must be willing to be uncomfortable."

Right now we and the Iraqi people are in the "uncomfortable" stage with reduction in power generation capability, oil production and social programs, but in the very near future the children of Iraq will live in a country that will provide a democratic government where people will be allowed to work together toward the greater good of the diversity in Iraq, not just one party.

Attitude is the single most determining factor in life. As Lt. Col. Yoshi Smith, former vice commander of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing said, "Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude." I know my attitude; check yours!

Diamond notes

The underarmor tight-fitting T-Shirt is not conservative and will not be worn as an outergarment. When wearing the underarmor tight-fitting T-Shirt as an undergarment, Airmen will not remove their DCU blouse. Personnel will not wear underarmor tight-fitting T-Shirts with any combination of PT uniform inside the housing areas.

From the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing First Sergeant.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional Sundays

Sundays 7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 11 a.m.

Freedom Chapel
Protestant - Gospel

Sundays

11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR

Tent 29th SPT BN Wednesdays

7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays 4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays
11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays
13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

6:30 p.m Provider Chapel Annex

Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Lt. Col. Laurie Hall

Home station: Lackland Air Force Base,

Texas

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group,

chief nurse

Hobbies: Knitting, crocheting and reading. **How do you contribute to the mission?** Making sure patient care is done and done

right.

What is your favorite aspect of deployment? The patients. It's great to see them come in and be able to get back to their units or go home.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? My dogs

Know what this is?

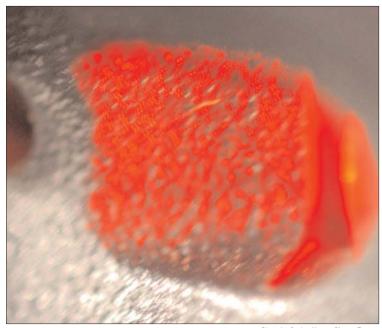
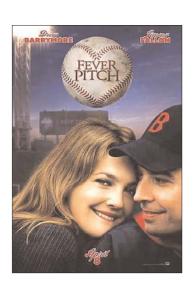


Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of the suspension on a Humvee was identified by Senior Airman Sabrina McAllister, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change -



Today

3 p.m. - Fever Pitch

6 p.m. - The Upside of Anger

9 p.m. - The Upside of Anger

Saturday, June 18

3 p.m. - Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

6 p.m. - The Longest Yard

9 p.m. - Fever Pitch

Sunday, June 19

3 p.m. - Sin City

6 p.m. - Fever Pitch

9 p.m. - The Upside of Anger

Monday, June 20

3 p.m. - Hostage

6 p.m. - Sisterhood of the

Traveling Pants 9 p.m. - Guess Who

Tuesday, June 21

3 p.m. - Cursed

6 p.m. - Million Dollar Baby

9 p.m. - Sisterhood of the

Traveling Pants

Wednesday, June 22

3 p.m. - Hide and Seek

6 p.m. - Fever Pitch

9 p.m. - Sin City

Thursday, June 23

3 p.m. - Sisterhood of the

Traveling Pants

6 p.m. - Fever Pitch

9 p.m. - Fever Pitch

